

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The following listing provides the amended claims with deleted material crossed out and new material underlined to show the changes made.

**Claims 1-5. (Canceled)**

6. (Currently Amended) An integrated-circuit ("IC") layout comprising:

- a) a net with routable elements;
- b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partially circular; and
- c) a first set of vias that are circular, wherein a plurality of interconnect lines with partially circular ends terminate at a plurality of circular vias.

7. (Original) The IC layout of claim 6, wherein the interconnect-line ends are semi-circular.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The IC layout of claim 6 further comprising a second set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the second set of interconnect lines have ends that are not partially circular.

10. (New) The IC layout of claim 9 further comprising a second set of vias, wherein each via in the second set has non-circular shape.

11. (New) The IC layout of claim 6, wherein each via in the first set traverses at least two layers of the IC layout and has one contact on each of the layers.

12. (New) The IC layout of claim 9, wherein each via in the second set traverses at least two layers of the IC layout and has one contact on each of the layers.

13. (New) The IC layout of claim 6, wherein the first set of interconnect lines includes lines in non-Manhattan directions.

14. (New) The IC layout of claim 13, wherein the first set of interconnect lines further includes lines in Manhattan directions.

15. (New) The IC layout of claim 6, wherein the first set of interconnect lines includes lines in Manhattan directions.